

SENATE RESOLUTION No. ____

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED RESOLUTION

A SENATE RESOLUTION congratulating Tess Grimm on her retirement, after serving 22 years as the Executive Director of the Reitz Home Preservation Society.

BECKER

_____, read first time and referred to Committee on



SENATE RESOLUTION

MADAM PRESIDENT:

I offer the following resolution and move its adoption:

A SENATE RESOLUTION congratulating Tess Grimm on her retirement, after serving 22 years as the Executive Director of the Reitz Home Preservation Society.

Whereas, Tess Grimm, after dedicating 22 years of service to leading the restoration and preservation of the John Augustus Reitz home, has decided to retire;

Whereas, In 1973, Tess Grimm took a tour of the Reitz Home, the once majestic mansion of one of Evansville's richest families. She discovered that the home was without electricity and covered in dirt and dust. The previous resident of the home, the late Bishop Henry Joseph Grimmelsman, had painted the canvassed artwork, patterned wallpapers, and intricate friezes white;

Whereas, Motivated by an eagerness to return the home to its former grandeur, Tess Grimm and volunteers from the Junior League of Evansville, with the help of other nonprofits and philanthropists, formed the Reitz Home Preservation Society and bought the home for \$1;



Whereas, The Reitz Home Preservation Society's mission was to restore the home and preserve the legacy of the Reitz family, which began with John Augustus Reitz. In the late 19th century, the lumber baron branched into other industries, including telephone companies and railroads. His descendants have contributed thousands of dollars to community institutions such as Reitz High School and Reitz Memorial High School;

Whereas, In 1989, Tess Grimm landed the job of executive director at the Reitz Home. She became a nonprofit staff of one, and took on the responsibility to return the estate to its original 1890s grandeur;

Whereas, During her tenure, Tess Grimm raised funds for at least 25 home restorations and expanded the staff to three fulltime members. Additionally, the Reitz Home Museum holds four special events annually which include the Mystery Event, Victorian Christmas, Derby Day, and Wine Dive. Each of the four events is designed to raise money to help maintain the Reitz home. The four events combined bring in about \$85,000 each year;

Whereas, On January 27, 2011, the Board of Trustees of the Reitz Home Preservation Society will celebrate the retirement of Tess Grimm at the Evansville Museum of Arts; and

Whereas, Tess Grimm's service for 22 years as the Executive Director of the Reitz Home Preservation Society has been invaluable in restoring and preserving the Reitz home, her outstanding work is to be commended, and her retirement is well deserved: Therefore,

*Be it resolved by the Senate of the
General Assembly of the State of Indiana:*



1 SECTION 1. The Indiana Senate congratulates Tess Grimm on
2 her retirement, after serving 22 years as the Executive Director of the
3 Reitz Home Preservation Society.

4 SECTION 2. The Secretary of the Senate is hereby directed to
5 transmit a copy of this Resolution to Tess Grimm.

